(b) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) would require nearly 800 million tonnes of ore for the next 30 years;

(c) if so, whether expansion plans of SAIL would be taken into account and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how Government has come to the conclusion that 800 million tonnes are enough for SAIL to meet its expansion plans?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The estimated iron-ore requirement of the major steel companies in the State of Jharkhand on completion of their projected expansion/Greenfield capacities amounts to 211.7 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA). This includes the current requirement of 17.98 MTPA of iron ore for the existing steel production capacities.

(b) to (d) As presently estimated, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) would have a total requirement of about 1400 Million Tonnes (MT) of iron ore for the next 30 years in the State of Jharkhand for servicing present steel capacities as well as their expansion plans.

Revival of closed fertilizer units

†*277. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to declaration of U.P.A. Government any concrete steps have been taken for revival of fertilizer factories operated by FCI, HFC etc. which are now lying closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Government had on 12th April, 2007, decided to examine the feasibility of revival of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) subject to confirmed availability of gas. Further, in pursuance of the above decision of the Government, the techno-economic feasibility of revival of the closed units of HFCL and FCIL was examined in detail and it is found that except for the existing plant machinery, the basic infrastructure *viz* land, water, electricity, railway siding, silos, etc. can be gainfully utilized through revival of these closed units by setting up of new brown field urea projects. Moreover, the revival has also been found to be economically viable under the policy for new investments in urea sector.

In view of above and the imminent need to increase indigenous production of urea in the country, the Government on 30.10.2008, has decided to revive the Barauni Unit of HFCL through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) promoted by fertilizer PSUs and Cooperatives. The Government has further constituted a Empowered Committee of Secretaries to look into all financial models for revival of each of the closed units along with the provision of various linkages including gas. The Government has also accorded 'in principle approval' for considering writing off of GOI loans and interest liabilities of the HFCL and FCIL towards the Government subject to submission of fully tied up proposal for final decision on waiver.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.